

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2006

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2006, at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

Members Present

Jim Aucoin, *AMVETS*; John C. Bonnell, Jr., *Marine Corps League*; Mason Botts, *Air Force Association*; Vince Burgess, *Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services (ex-officio/non-voting)*; David Ellis, *NAUS*; Paul Galanti, *Chairman, Board of Veterans Services (ex-officio/non-voting)*; J. Pat Green, *Roanoke Valley Veterans Council*; Robert O. Gray, *American Ex-Prisoners of War*; John T. Jackson, *Paralyzed Veterans of America*; Norman Jasper, *Military Order of the Purple Heart*; James Jones, *Korean War Veterans Association*; Daniel Miller, *Disabled American Veterans*; Connie T. O'Neill, *American Legion*; Richard J. Rinaldo, *Legion of Valor of the U. S., Inc.*; R. Goodwin Sacra, *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*; Kenneth Smith, *Virginia National Guard Association*; Thomas Snee, *Fleet Reserve Association*; Tom Stephen, Jr., *Reserve Officers Association*; Frank Wickersham, *MOAA*; and Sam Wilder, *Association of the United States Army*.

Members Absent

George Dumas, *Homeless and Disabled Veterans*; John Dunleavy, *Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge*; Paul R. Fink, *U. S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association*; Richard Schneider, *Non-Commissioned Officers Association*; and Peter Snelling, *Veterans of Foreign Wars*

Others Present

S. Judson Stanley, Vice-Chair, Board of Veterans Services/Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees
Jack Hilgers, Legislative Assistant to Delegate Leo Wardrup
Dan Karnes, President, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Willie Ransom, American Legion
Juanita Farrow, President & CEO, Farrow and Associates
Alvene P. Conyers, Program Manager, Farrow and Associates
Josie Pearson, Human Resource Director, Farrow and Associates
Harry Warner, Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation
Ronald Hudson, Citizen
Paul Hinkhouse, U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service
Sara Stein, ALSA DC/MD/VA
Anne Atkins, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Lew Deal, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Steven Combs, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Roz Trent, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Andrew Edwards, Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Don Ferguson, Office of the Attorney General

Jenny Holbert, Women Marine Association
Dassa Carvey, WAVES National

Agenda Packet:

Meeting Agenda; draft Minutes of the May 17, 2006, meeting; Virginia Department of Veterans Services News Release “*Spouses of Military Service Members Killed and Disabled Now Eligible for Education Benefits*,” Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program FAQs and attached Application; Executive Order Number 19 (06) and attached August 3, 2006 Memorandum to Executive Branch Agency Heads; Virginia Department of Veterans Services Legislative and Budget Items Related to Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations’ 2006 Legislative Agenda, V3 and attached August 8, 2006 e-mails re: JLC Legislative Agenda Input

Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Headquarters Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond. Vice-Chair Sam Wilder led the Council in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Chaplain Norman Jasper led the Council in prayer.

Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination

The roll was called. Seventeen of the twenty-three voting members were recorded as present, and a quorum was determined. Mason Botts arrived after the roll was called.

Review and Approval of May 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 17, 2006 meeting were reviewed. There being no amendments, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

First Public Comment Period:

Presentations were made on veterans family services; veterans preference; the Virginia War Memorial Foundation Educational Wing, and veterans employment training services as follows:

Veterans Family Services:

Juanita Farrow, Alvene Conyers, and Josie Pearson of Farrow and Associates presented information regarding Farrow and Associates Family Service Centers (FSC). Ms. Farrow, President and CEO, read the mission of FSC -- “*to prevent and/or resolve problems before they impact personal, family and unit readiness.*” The Center offers a variety of resources and opportunities which support and enhance quality of life for service members, family members and retirees; promotes both personal and family stability; and facilitates personal self-sufficiency and command readiness at various bases around the state of Virginia and throughout the country. Additional information regarding FSC can be found at www.farrowassociates.com. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Burgess added that DVS is engaged in outreach and awareness programs that are similar to the services provided by FSC. He suggested that possibly a partnership could be formed in providing these services. He asked DVS Communications Director, Anne Atkins, to further engage in this effort.

Sam Wilder also suggested that the Virginia Citizens Soldiers Support Council would be able to assist in promoting the awareness of the services provided by Farrow and Associates. Chairman Wickersham would provide the contact information.

Veterans Preference

Ron Hudson, an employee of the Commonwealth of Virginia, distributed a handout detailing his presentation regarding “preference for veterans” in regards to employment with the Commonwealth. Specifically, his concern was the Commonwealth’s “intent” to afford veterans preference. He stated that *veterans preference* should be clearly defined in the Code of Virginia so that people will clearly know what they should expect or should not expect from their government if they are employees. He strongly urged the JLC consider the following in its legislative agenda:

- adopt a resolution calling for an amendment to the Code of Virginia to clearly define the terms “merit,” “consideration,” and “preference;”
- amend the code to be definitive as is the Code of the State of Texas; and
- if a definitive code is not adopted, a means of review be established which requires a detailed and quantified measure of qualifications for any veterans denied a promotion or appointment, and that JLARC be tasked to quantify those results and report them to the General Assembly.

Mr. Hudson asked that JLC members read the Department of Employment Dispute Resolution’s Administrative Hearing Case #8076 which was attached, and measure for themselves if “*preference*” really meant “*preference.*” In addition, he requested the JLC to consider a proposal that resources be made available (board/panel) to persons in the appeal process who can clearly explain why decisions are made and can clearly define processes.

Commissioner Burgess offered his personal opinion regarding hiring practices in the Commonwealth. He stated that when there are two candidates who are both equally qualified for a position, “veterans preference” should be exercised as part of the hiring decision-making process. He stated that the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) would be the state agency to address this issue.

Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing

Harry Warner, Executive Director, Virginia War Memorial Educational Foundation, urged and solicited the support of the JLC to include the Virginia War Memorial and its Educational Wing as a priority in its 2007 legislative agenda. He stated that because of the increased volume of visitors to the War Memorial over the past ten years (approximately 100% increase), including school groups, participants to patriotic events, Memorial and Veterans Day events, seminars, etc., the War Memorial has become too small to adequately house the increased volume of guests. To address the increased space needs, Delegate Hargrove introduced legislation during

the 2006 General Assembly to provide \$4 million in General Funds for the War Memorial Educational Wing. However, only \$500,000 in General Funds and \$2 million in Non-General Funds were appropriated. Amendments for an additional \$3.5 million in General Funds were proposed on both the House and Senate; however, neither amendment was passed. The cost of the new wing is estimated at \$5.6 million. The Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees will raise \$1.6 million towards this goal. The General Assembly is being requested to fund \$4 million (\$3.5 million requested in 2007).

Discussion followed. Mr. Warner distributed a flyer of upcoming events and invited JLC members to attend.

S. Judson Stanley, Vice-Chair of the Board of Veterans Services and a member of the Virginia War Memorial Board of Trustees, concurred with Mr. Warner's comments. He encouraged JLC members to attend the House Appropriations Committee meeting on September 18th to have a "show of force" from the veterans' population.

Veterans Employment and Training Service

Paul Hinkhouse, State Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) gave a brief summation of VETS programs:

- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) - In Virginia, there are nine (9) active military sites wherein TAP workshops are conducted for separating military members. Sites include: Quantico Marine Corps Base, Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, Fort Belvoir, Fort Lee, Fort Eustis, Langley Air Force Base, the Naval Surface Warfare Center – Dahlgren Division, and Norfolk Naval Station. The Norfolk TAP program is the largest, with 2 workshops per week facilitated by Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff. Approximately 16,000 servicemen go through TAP briefings over the course of a year. Active duty military take priority in these workshops, with an average of 84 service members in each workshop. There is an initiative to expand the TAP to National Guard & Reserve units. This has become difficult due to the 90-day period from the time when the guardsmen come back from deployment and when they return for reserve drill. Most problems occur during the 90-day period as family members and servicemen are getting readjusted to civilian life. VETS would like to become more involved in TAP workshops on a weekend bases, when most reserve drills take place. However, additional resources are needed, as the bases do not have adequate training facilities or the ability to conduct workshops. Mr. Hinkhouse asked the JLC for support in this effort.
- Jobs for Veterans Act, Public Law 107288 - Virginia will receive the largest amount in grant ever received – over \$4 million
- Priority of Service – The U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for veterans preference within federal law. There is a federal law and a state directive that encourages public agencies, especially in the employment training area, to provide priority service to

service members. This, unfortunately, is not occurring. Mr. Hinkhouse urged the JLC to do all it could to promote awareness of the law. In addition, he encouraged the JLC to do all it could to promote clarity in veterans preference at the state level.

Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Burgess informed the JLC that he would need to depart early as he would be joining U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Secretary Nicholson to speak at the Jewish War Veterans National Convention luncheon being held at the Omni Hotel at 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Burgess introduced the following:

- New Veterans Service Organization representatives expected to join the JLC:
Jenny Holbert, Women Marine Association; *Dassa Carvey*, WAVES National.
- New DVS staff: Anne Atkins and Lew Deal
Anne Atkins, Director of Communications - Ms. Atkins is an on-loan executive from the Department of Motor Vehicles with 30 years of experience with state government in public relations and communications.
- *Lew Deal, DVS Deputy Director for Outreach & Special Projects* - Mr. Deal is a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant. Colonel who is working for DVS on a part-time basis. He has been charged to network with the VSOs and other civic organizations at the community, regional and state level to make veterans aware of the services of the Department. Mr. Deal will also be playing an integral role in the Department's efforts to raise the awareness of the Department's services with the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve.

Ms. Atkins informed the JLC of the following upcoming events:

Post Deployment Health Activities - Saturday, August 12 – Sunday, August 13, 2006

The DVS would be participating in three post deployment health reassessment activities.

They will be held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, in Blackstone and at the armory in Cedar Bluff. Benefits representatives will be present at all three locations. State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training (SAA) representatives will be present in Richmond and in Blackstone.

Veterans Expo - Saturday, September 16, 2006

The DVS will sponsor a Veterans Expo, inviting between 20-30 agencies that would provide information and services of interest to veterans and their families. This will be held at the Community Center in downtown Wytheville. Free parking will be available.

Fort Eustis Retiree Appreciation Day – Saturday, September 16, 2006

DVS Benefits Services, Cemetery, and Care Center representatives will be present at the Fort Eustis Retiree Appreciation Day activities.

Fort Lee Retiree Appreciation Day - Saturday, October 7, 2006

DVS Benefits Services, Cemetery, and Care Center representatives will be present at the Fort Lee Retiree Appreciation Day activities.

DVS is working with American Legion to have presence at the American Legion meeting in late October.

Commissioner Burgess urged members to advise Ms. Atkins of any events taking place in their organizations so that events can be included on the DVS Calendar of Events. (DVS Calendar of Events attached).

JLC Membership/Alternates

The Commissioner stated that until members were officially notified otherwise, they remained as representatives of their respective organizations on the JLC. The Secretary of the Commonwealth has received information from all organizations, and will soon be announcing appointments to the JLC. It was clarified that *alternates* were appointed JLC representatives. The representatives should submit the name of the alternate to the Department. The Commissioner will then send letters of confirmation to alternates.

DVS Organizational Update:

- The DVS is continuing to have the administrative functions of the agency relocated to Richmond. This is a primary long-term goal of the Department.
- Two positions (with similar operations) in the Finance and Administration office have been abolished and functions have been combined. The procurement function has been outsourced. The Educational Service Specialist position will be advertised shortly. JLC members will receive notification of all vacant positions so that they can communicate to persons who may have interest in working for DVS.
- The Financial Management System is still being developed. Targeted completion: fall of 2006.
- DVS hired one VSR at McGuire; second position closing date: August 10, 2006

DVS Legislative Update:

- The 2006 was one of the more successful budget years for DVS. Many initiatives were passed due to the support of Governors Warner and Kaine, strong bi-partisan support from the General Assembly, and support from DVS boards. New positions include:
 - Care Centers
 - 30 positions, including 25 certified nursing assistants, approved for the Virginia Veterans Care Center for FY07
 - 50 positions approved for the Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center in FY07; 183 additional positions in FY08
 - Benefits Services

- 3 veterans services representative positions approved for FY07 (1 at the Hampton VA Medical Center; 1 at the Salem VA Medical Center, and 1 in Northern Virginia)
- 2 full-time administrative positions and 8 part-time administrative positions approved for FY07, with the 8 part-time positions to be converted to full time in FY08)
- Cemetery Services:
 - 5 positions approved for FY07 (2 groundskeepers; 1 mechanic; 2 administrative) to be distributed between the cemeteries in Suffolk and Amelia
 - Moving forward with securing property for a third cemetery in southwest Virginia
- Educational Services (SAA):
 - 2 Educational Service Specialists – part-time (1 in Roanoke; 1 in Tidewater)
- Capital Budget
 - \$3.6 million in additional construction for the 160-bed phase of the Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center
 - DVS is authorized to accept donation of land from the Radford Army Ammunition Plant for construction of a cemetery in Southwest Virginia
 - \$14.6 million, representing the Commonwealth's 35% share of constructions costs, for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center

The Commissioner advised that he would be speaking before the House Appropriations Committee on September 18th and welcomed JLC members to attend.

Executive Order Number Nineteen (2006) (EO 19)

The Commissioner focused on Executive Order Number Nineteen and the August 3rd memorandum to agency heads, which was included in the agenda packet. He stated that EO 19, signed by Governor Kaine (effective June 16, 2006), outlined steps that the Commonwealth of Virginia government will take to reinvigorate and improve services for Virginia's veterans. The Governor has directed that all state agencies identify ways to partner with DVS in offering new, expanded, or customized services for veterans. DVS will establish a comprehensive baseline measurement of current services provided by state agencies and identify opportunities for improvement. An example of the partnership intended by EO 19 is the fact that DVS has placed five VSRs at Virginia Employment Commission offices across the Commonwealth and will continue to work with the VEC in outreach efforts. An interim report is due to the Governor by October 15th; final report due by April 30, 2007. These issues will come before the 2008 General Assembly session when the next biennial budget is adopted.

The Commissioner stated that the effects of EO 19 may lead to additional legislative initiatives for 2008. He stressed the importance of the JLC finalizing its legislative agenda. The Chairs of both the BVS and the JLC will present the JLC 2007 legislative agenda at the next BVS meeting (September 18, 2006). This information will be submitted to the Governor as part of the legislative package for the 2007 General Assembly session.

Chairman Wickersham emphasized that the JLC should be in support of DVS strategies and initiatives.

Comments from Chairs:

Chairman Wickersham acknowledged Paul Galanti, newly elected Chair of the BVS. Mr. Galanti emphasized that the JLC represents 750,000 veterans in the Commonwealth and plays an integral role in support of veterans throughout the state.

The Chair also recognized S. Judson Stanley, Vice-Chair of the BVS. Mr. Stanley commented that the "State Exemption for Personal Property Taxes for 100% Disabled Veterans" JLC legislative initiative is already written into the law. Mr. Stanley will send the exact code section and language to Chairman Wickersham.

The JLC stood in recess for 15 minutes. (11:40 a.m.)

Chairman Wickersham called the meeting back to order at 11:55 a.m.

Old Business

Discussion, Ranking, and Vote of Proposed Legislative Issues for 2006-2007

Each JLC representative stated its organization's legislative priorities. After discussion, the JLC ranked its top 2007 legislative initiatives as follows:

1. Strengthen Virginia Guard and Reserve (includes family service centers; tax exemptions)
2. Support for DVS Strategic Plan and Budget (includes third cemetery and care center; spinal cord injury, etc.)
3. In-state tuition for Active Duty service members stationed in Virginia
4. Funding for the Virginia War Memorial Educational Wing (also add language to facilitate the construction of the Fredericksburg Area War Memorial)
5. Veterans Preference
6. Pay Day Lending
7. State Tax Exemption for Virginia Resident Active/Guard/Reserve while serving on active duty OCONUS

Don Ferguson stated that the scope of DVS regarding whether the national guard and active military members are subject to the Department's oversight is a recurring issue. He stated that in a 1973 opinion of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), concerning "what is a veteran" for purposes of a tax exemption of vehicles for disabled veterans, it was concluded that since the term "veteran" is not clearly defined in the Code of Virginia, the Virginia law would look to the Federal definition of a "veteran." The federal law determined that a veteran is a person who is already discharged from the armed service. The 1973 OAG opinion read that the veterans exemption would not apply to people existing in serving on active duty. He suggested that the JLC eliminate some issues because they relate directly to active duty service/national guard service, but not specifically related to veterans services, and advised that the JLC focus on issues that are clearly veterans issues.

Discussion followed concerning “who” is included in the definition of a veteran. Attorney Ferguson advised that he would address this issue in a memorandum to the Commissioner. Chairman Wickersham stated that the JLC will include the “support for Virginia Guard and Reserve” in its 2007 legislative initiatives, and if a decision negates this inclusion, the JLC will address this as an “issue of concern.”

Jack Hilgers concurred with Attorney Ferguson in that only veterans issues fall under the purview of the Department of Veterans Services. He urged JLC members to meet with legislators to pursue this issue.

JLC Officer Nominations for 2006-2007

Dan Miller stated that because Pat Green had been appointed to the Board of Veterans Services, the slate of officers presented at the May 17th meeting was revised. Therefore, the JLC Nominating Committee submitted for consideration the following slate of officers for 2006-2007:

Chairman – Mason Botts
Air Force Association

Vice-Chairman – Sam Wilder
Association of the U.S. Army

Chairman Wickersham asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers by acclamation. The motion was carried unanimously. On behalf of the JLC, Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Wickersham for his outstanding leadership for 2005-2006. Members acknowledged with applause.

Connie O’Neal submitted for the record a vocal e-mail of appreciation which read:

“ ...*Dear Frank ...*

On behalf of all the members of the JLC ... I hereby congratulate you ... and offer a sincere, well done ... for your most successful year as Chairman, JLC ... In a word, your superb term as Chairman JLC was ... okey dokey!”

Mr. Wickersham expressed his appreciation to the JLC for his tenure as Chair. He acknowledged the growth and professionalism of the Council, and recognized the prior leadership of Mr. Miller and Mr. O’Neill as past Chairmen. He thanked the JLC for their cooperation and support.

JLC Alternates

Steven Combs clarified that the JLC representatives should submit a letter to the Commissioner nominating his/her alternate. The Commissioner, in turn, will send a letter acknowledging receipt of the nomination as an alternate to the JLC. The DVS will obtain copies of all nomination of alternate letters sent to the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. It was

noted that when the designated alternate cannot attend a meeting, if needed, a “third” alternate would attend bringing a letter/e-mail from the representative giving this alternate the authorization to vote on the representative’s behalf.

Mr. Green stated that the Code of Virginia allowed members to only serve two terms. He stressed the importance of choosing an alternate that will/can transition as a JLC member. The alternate should attend meetings with the JLC member to make the transition as easy as possible in understanding JLC issues.

In addition, Mr. Green noted that during the 2006 General Assembly session, legislation for travel reimbursement for JLC members was passed; however, funding was not included. Mr. Combs clarified that since legislation had been passed into law, the DVS will absorb the cost. Travel reimbursement vouchers will be sent to each JLC member for signature and return to DVS for travel reimbursement payment processing.

New Business

Newly elected Vice-Chair, Sam Wilder proceeded in chairing the meeting until the arrival of Mason Botts.

Citizen’s Support Council Representative

Frank Wickersham briefly commented on the Virginia Citizens Solders Support Council (VCSSC). He stated that members of the VCSSC are appointed by the Governor, and that the Secretary of Public Safety serves as Chairman. The VCSSC bridges the gap between the military bases, the service members, and citizens councils such as the JLC. Its primary focus is the Guard and Reserve, as opposed to the active duty bases.

Mr. Wilder further stated that the JLC is now an official member of the VCSSC, and stressed the importance of having JLC representation on the VCSSC.

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by David Ellis and Mr. O’Neill, that Vice-Chairman Wilder represent the JLC on the VCSSC, given that he had expressed an interest to do so. Vice-Chairman Wilder asked that an alternate be named, should he be unable to attend meetings. The motion was amended that Vice-Chairman Wilder would be the JLC primary representative and Chairman Botts be the alternate representative on the VCSSC. There being no discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

JLC 2006-2007 Meeting Schedule

To assist in planning meeting schedules, Mr. Hilgers briefed the members on the 2006-2007 Legislative Schedule, as follows:

July 17 – December 11, 2006 -	Legislators profile bills. This is the time for organizations to meet with legislators and pursue legislative agendas. There are no restrictions to the number of bills that can be filed during this time.
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After December 11th, Delegates are limited to five bills; Senators are limited to 8 bills. The Governor has no restrictions on the number of bills he can submit.

- December 15, 2006 - Governor submits budget to the legislature
- January 10, 2007 - 2007 General Assembly convenes (2nd Wednesday in January)
- February 24, 2007 - 2007 General Assembly adjourns
- April 4, 2007 - Reconvened Session. General Assembly considers the Governor's amendments and vetoes.

He stressed that if the JLC or veterans service organizations wanted the definition of veterans to be addressed or modified by legislation, now would be the time to do so. He advised that if modified legislation is passed, it would not take effect until July 1, 2007.

Based on a prior discussion with Commissioner Burgess, Mr. Green proposed that meetings be set for the remainder of 2006 and for 2007. After discussion, the following meeting schedule was adopted:

October 11, 2006
December 20, 2006
January 17, 2007
March 14, 2007
May 16, 2007
August 8, 2007
October 10, 2007
December 20, 2007

With the arrival of newly elected Chairman Botts, further discussion ensued. Mr. Green informed the JLC that it was suggested that the January 17th meeting be a breakfast with the legislators to emphasize the JLC issues. This will give an opportunity for legislators to see the JLC as an organization. Commissioner Burgess has agreed that the DVS will manage the logistics.

Proponents for Issues

Vice-Chairman Wilder suggested that the Chair assign a JLC member or members to be subject matter experts (proponents) in conducting research/background on specific JLC legislative initiatives. Those assigned would take ownership and be knowledgeable, effective advocates for the particular legislative issue(s) on behalf of the JLC. He also suggested that the subject matter experts might prepare point papers (talking points) for use when meeting with legislators. He

distributed a “draft” talking paper as an example for the JLC’s consideration. He further suggested that assignments be made prior to the October meeting.

Chairman Botts asked any interested member to contact him via e-mail if they had a desire to assume this responsibility. The Chair will also advise members, of the need for a representative to attend meetings on his behalf, if necessary and/or appropriate (i.e. Veterans Services Foundation meetings; Board of Veterans Services meetings; DVS meetings, etc.)

Mr. Green requested suggested that a new JLC member listing be developed adding the contact information for alternates.

Second Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Determination of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the JLC will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the American Legion Department of Virginia Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue in Richmond.

In the absence of Commissioner Burgess, on behalf of the DVS, Mr. Combs presented plaques of appreciation to past chairs and vice-chairs of the JLC for outstanding leadership. Plaques were presented to the following:

Frank Wickersham, Chair, 2005-2006

Sam Wilder, Vice Chair, 2005-2006

Connie O’Neill, Chair, 2004-2005

Frank Wickersham, Vice-Chair, 2004-2005

Dan Miller, Chair, 2003-2004

Jim Aucoin, Vice-Chair, 2003-2004

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.